

they can't make good decisions, our democratic form of government is at risk.

Media bias exists everywhere—from the front pages of influential newspapers to daily network newscasts to slanted social media posts. “News” stories have now become opinion pieces.

The liberal national media ignore events that would be scandals if they involved conservatives. Consider how little follow-up there has been of the politicizing of the IRS, the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi, the illegal immigration amnesties, the secret terms of the Iran deal, and the videos of unborn babies' organs being sold.

In short, media bias affects almost every issue that Americans care about.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF PHILLIP MORRILL'S SERVICE TO WOLFEBORO FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT IN WOLFEBORO, NEW HAMPSHIRE

### HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2015*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Granite State first responder for forty years of service to the Wolfeboro Fire-Rescue Department in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire.

Chief Philip “Butch” Morrill joined the Wolfeboro Fire-Rescue Department in September of 1975 as a call firefighter. Four years later on October 23, 1979 he joined the ranks of the department as a full time firefighter, committed to protecting his community and the Greater Lakes Region of New Hampshire. Firefighter Morrill was a standout member of the department and would work through the ranks of the department over the next twenty five years before being appointed Chief on May 3, 2004. In addition to his duties with the Wolfeboro Fire-Rescue Department, Chief Morrill was also an active member of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, serving as its President in 2013–2014.

On November 30, 2015 Chief Morrill retired with forty years of service to the people of Wolfeboro and the Granite State. On behalf of the people of the First Congressional District of New Hampshire, I thank him for his dedicated service to the community and wish him all the best in his retirement.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 (H.R. 4127)

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2015*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last June the House voted on a partisan Intelligence Authorization, H.R. 2596. Along with 178 of my colleagues, I voted against that authorization. Since June, negotiations among Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees have taken place resulting in the improved bill before us today, H.R. 4127.

This bipartisan compromise ensures that the Intelligence Community will have the funding

and resources they need to keep America safe, maintain necessary intelligence capabilities, and counter a myriad of threats, including ISIL and cybersecurity. It strengthens Congressional oversight and provides strict authorizations and limitations on intelligence activities. Along with reforms included in the bipartisan USA Freedom Act of 2015 which was signed into law in June of this year, H.R. 4127 makes critical steps towards ensuring our intelligence programs are conducted responsibly and with strong accountability to maximize both security and privacy.

As importantly, H.R. 4127 rectifies the inappropriate and unnecessary use of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding that was included in H.R. 2596 to circumvent the Budget Control Act funding caps. This correction will allow for more stable budgeting for the Intelligence Community for the remainder of the fiscal year.

However, this bill unfortunately continues to contain provisions that will prevent the closure of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. While I strongly oppose measures to prevent the closure of the detention center, the provisions in H.R. 4127 have already been codified into law in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

Ensuring that our Intelligence Community has the resources, support and tools they need is critical to our national security. We must also ensure that strong privacy protections are included to ensure that we safeguard our civil liberties. While not perfect, this compromise is much improved from the bill that left this House in June and therefore earns my support.

### HONORING KYLE WEIGAND

### HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kyle Weigand for being awarded the American FFA Degree as a member of the National FFA Organization. Kyle is a member of the Willow Springs Chapter of the FFA and, with four of its other members, received this prestigious award. FFA is an intercurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership consisting of 629,367 members, aged 12–21. Kyle is among the 463 FFA members from Missouri that received the American FFA degree, marking the highest number of recipients from any state.

As a past recipient of the American FFA Degree, I offer my highest congratulations as I understand the hard work and effort required to reach this goal. In order to obtain the American FFA Degree, a member must begin their pursuit of the award during their freshman year of high school through participation in every level of the organization and leadership events.

As a former member of FFA, I can proudly say that my experience in the organization was invaluable learning about leadership skills and public speaking. It is my pleasure to recognize Kyle Weigand for receiving this prominent award before the United States House of Representatives.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RE-STORING THE PARTNERSHIP FOR COUNTY HEALTH CARE COSTS ACT OF 2015

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to restore the partnership between the federal government and counties for the health care costs of inmates who have not been convicted of a crime. This legislation will provide some relief to our nation's local economies, while embodying the fundamental principles of our legal justice system.

In almost all states, a person who is incarcerated in a county jail or juvenile detention facility loses their Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP or SSI benefits even if they have not been convicted of a crime. The U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the 8th Amendment requires government entities to provide medical care to all inmates. As a result, local governments are burdened with the expense of providing health care to thousands of men, women and children currently awaiting trial.

Providing health care for inmates constitutes a major portion of local jail operating costs. Requiring county governments to cover health care costs for inmates who have not yet been convicted of a crime places an unnecessary burden on local governments, which have their fair share of widespread budget deficits and cuts to safety net programs and other essential services.

Terminating benefits to inmates who are awaiting trial violates the presumption of innocence, which is a cornerstone principle of our justice system. The current practice does not distinguish between persons who are awaiting disposition of charges and persons who have been duly convicted and sentenced. This disproportionately affects low-income and minority populations who are often unable to post bond, which would enable them to continue receiving benefits.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation addresses this problem by prohibiting the federal government from stripping individuals of their Medicare, Medicaid, and SSI benefits before the inmate has been convicted of a crime. It preserves the partnership between the federal and local governments and ensures that local governments are not burdened with an unfair share of meeting the mandate to guarantee medical coverage. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense bill that addresses a problem affecting communities all across the nation.

### HONORING DR. WILLIAM KIRWAN

### HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2015*

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. William Kirwan for his service to the people of Maryland. Earlier this year, Dr. Kirwan retired after serving as Chancellor of the University System of Maryland for 12 years. The system includes 12 universities, which run from Frostburg State in Western